

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10

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AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15

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APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:WCLARK,JR.

TREASURY:JCLAWSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 172763

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD, US

SUBJECT: DRAFT REGULATIONS ON METRIC STANDARDS OF FILL FOR
DISTILLED SPIRITS

1. ON JULY 16, 1975 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, BUREAU
OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS (ATF) PUBLISHED ITS PRO-
POSED REGULATIONS ON METRIC STANDARDS OF FILL FOR DISTILLED
SPIRITS AND NOTICE OF HEARING. THESE REGULATIONS FOLLOW
CLOSELY THE APPROACH TAKEN BY ATF IN ITS RECENT REGULATIONS
ON METRIC STANDARDS OF FILL FOR WINE. THE BASIC PROVISIONS
ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE BUREAU PROPOSES THAT ON/OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1979 THE
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STANDARDS OF FILL FOR ALL DISTILLED SPIRITS, WHETHER DOMES-
TICALLY BOTTLED OR IMPORTED SHALL BE: 1.75 LITERS, 1.00
LITERS, 750 MILLILITERS, 500 MILLILITERS, 250 MILLILITERS OR
50 MILLILITERS.

B. WHENEVER A PERMITTEE OR FOREIGN BOTTLER COMMENCES BOTTLING A GIVEN PRODUCT ACCORDING TO A PRESCRIBED METRIC STANDARD OF FILL, HE MAY NOT THEREAFTER BOTTLE THAT PRODUCT IN A NON-STANDARD COORESPONDING SIZE--EXCEPT IN A BOTTLE OF UNUSUAL DESIGN WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED.

C. ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1976 THE METRIC STANDARDS OF FILL MAY OPTIONALLY BE APPLIED TO CORDIALS AND LIQUEURS, AND COCKTAILS, HIGHBALLS, BITTERS AND SPECIALTIES; HOWEVER, SUCH STANDARDS SHALL MANDATORILY APPLY ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1979.

D. BOTTLES PER CASE ARE PRESCRIBED ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF BOTTLES AS FOLLOWS: 1.75 LITERS-6 BOTTLES/CASE; 1.00 LITER-12; 750 MILLILITERS-12; 500 MILLILITERS-24; 250 MILLILITERS-48; 50 MILLILITERS-120. THIS REQUIREMENT BECOMES MANDATORY ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1979.

E. DISTILLED SPIRITS IMPORTED IN ORIGINAL CONTAINERS NOT CONFORMING TO THE METRIC STANDARDS OF FILL PRESCRIBED, SHALL NOT BE RELEASED FROM CUSTOMS CUSTODY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1978 UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A STATEMENT SIGNED BY A DULY AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL OF THE APPROPRIATE FOREIGN COUNTRY STATING THAT THE DISTILLED SPIRITS WERE BOTTLED OR PACKED PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1979 OR UNLESS THE DISTILLED SPIRITS ARE BEING WITHDRAWN FROM A CUSTOMS BONDED WAREHOUSE INTO WHICH THEY WERE ENTERED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1978.

F. IF DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD BOTTLES CONFORMING TO METRIC STANDARDS OF FILL ARE USED, THE BOTTLER MUST STATE NET CONTENTS IN BOTH METRIC AND U.S. MEASURE.

G. INTERESTED PERSONS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 10-11, 1975, 10:00 A.M., GEORGE S. BOUTWELL AUDITORIUM, SEVENTH FLOOR, INTERNAL REVENUE UNCLASSIFIED

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SERVICE, 1111 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. ANY PERSON WHO DESIRES TO PRESENT ORAL TESTIMONY AT THE PUBLIC HEARING SHOULD SO ADVISE THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20226 (ATTN: CHIEF, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES DIVISION) NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 1975. WRITTEN MATERIAL SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE SAME MANNER AND ALSO MUST BE SUBMITTED NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 1975.

2. BECAUSE OF SUMMER HOLIDAY SCHEDULES, THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE DEPARTMENT IS POUCHING BY AIRGRAM THE FEDERAL REGISTER

NOTICE WHICH INCLUDES BACKGROUND DISCUSSION, AND THE
PROPOSED REGULATIONS. KISSINGER

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